

Appl. No. 09/896,813
Response date: August 15, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9 are pending. Claims 3-7 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants amended claim 3 to be in independent form including all limitations of the base and intervening claims as per the objection to make the claims allowable, cancelled claims 1, 2, 8, and 9.

In view of the above response, Applicant believes that the claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request that such action be taken. If the Examiner has any questions pertaining to this Amendment or to the subject application in general, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Applicant believes that no additional fees are due with this response. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees, including those under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17, necessitated by this amendment and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 500477.

Respectfully submitted,



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